

Serial No. 10/699,459
Election dated April 17, 2006
In reply of Office Action dated March 16, 2006

REMARKS

The Election Requirement dated March 16, 2006 has been received and its contents carefully noted.

In view of the foregoing election, and following representations, reconsideration, examination, and allowance are respectfully requested.

It is understood that the Examiner will examine each of claims 1-3, as claim 1 is generic, claim 2 corresponds to the Examiner-designated estimation step Species i, and claim 3 depends directly from generic claim 1.

Although Applicant has elected without traverse, as Applicant's Species are patentably distinct, Applicant submits that it would not be an undue burden for the Patent Examiner to examine each of claims 1-11 concurrently, as no evidence has been provided that the claims have been separately classified in the Manual of Classification.

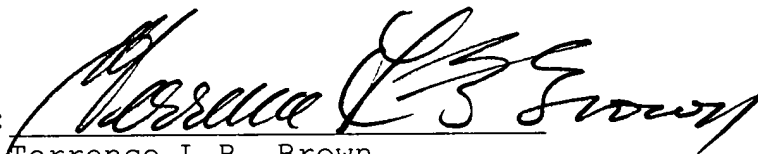
In sum, the Examiner is requested to examine all the claims, and at least claims 1-3, and confirm in writing that he has considered the timely filed Information Disclosure Statement filed November 3, 2003 by returning an initialed and dated Form PTO-1449.

Serial No. 10/699,459
Election dated April 17, 2006
In reply of Office Action dated March 16, 2006

It is believed that no additional fee is due. Should that determination be incorrect, the Patent Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies to our Deposit Account No. 19-2105 and to notify undersigned counsel in due course.

Should any outstanding formal matters or other issues remain, please telephone Terrence Brown at 703-684-5600 to resolve such.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 17, 2006 By: 
Terrence L.B. Brown
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 32,685

SHLESINGER, ARKWRIGHT & GARVEY LLP
1420 King Street, Suite 600
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 684-5600
sb